

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT Forestry Enterprises and
State Farms in the Elena Area

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Forestry Enterprises

1. The Elena (N 42-56, E 25-52) branch of the Government Forestry Office is responsible for the following government forest enterprises in Elena Okoliya:
 - a. Kostel Government Forest Enterprise (Kostelsko Dürzhavno Gorsko Stopanstvo);
 - b. Buynovtsi Government Forest Enterprise; and
 - c. Stara Reka Government Forest Enterprise.
2. The Stara Reka Enterprise has three branches:
 - a. "Borinata," near Kipilovo village;
 - b. "Kharman Borun;" and
 - c. "Eskanda," the largest of the three; this enterprise produces approximately 3,000 cubic meters of lumber per day during the working season.
3. The Elena branch of the Government Forestry Office is also in charge of the sawmills in Stara Reka, Tuzlu Alan, Elena, and Buynovtsi. The output of the sawmills, and some of the tree trunks, are taken by truck to the Zlataritsa railroad station.
4. The sawmill in Tuzlu Alan is called "Rayko Damyanov" Dürzhavno Industrialno Predpriyatie (State Industrial Enterprise). The machinery is located in a building about 140 meters long and 60 meters wide. The mill also has a building where wood is dried. The sawmill has the following equipment: two Bantsing machines (sic), two large circular saws, about 20 other circular saws, two steam generators, and a steam boiler. It employs about 180 workers and about 16 other employees. A laborer receives 17 to 20 leva per day and an apprentice receives about 12 leva. Work is carried out in three 8-hour shifts per day, seven days a week. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the mill has lost 8,000,000 to 11,000,000 leva per year (old currency) 25X1
for the past three years and [redacted] it is planned to move the mill to Stara Reka. The sawmill has a Communist Party cell and a branch of the DSNM (Dimitrovski Stuyuz na Narodnata Mladost; Dimitrov Union of the People's Youth). The mill is guarded by three Militia men, and entrance to the area is forbidden.

State Farms

5. In 1949, a DZS (Dürzhavno Zemedelsko Stopanstvo; Government Farm) was established in Tuzlu Alan, and Stefan Dechev [redacted] was appointed manager. The government allotted about 6,000 decarees of land to the DZS; the land had been confiscated from the following persons: 25X1
 - a. About 800 decarees from Stefan Hadzhi-Savov, from Konstatin;
 - b. About 1,300 decarees from Petko and Ivan Koev of Elena;
 - c. About 50 decarees from Sava Ivanov Trushlev of Elena;
 - d. About 3,000 decarees from the Kharalambov brothers of Elena; and
 - e. About 1,000 decarees from [redacted] residents who had left the area. 25X1
6. In 1949, a Trudovak unit from Turnovo was assigned to construct buildings for the DZS, and at about the same time the DZS purchased a tractor and several trucks.

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25X1

7. The farm has about 80 regular employees, and during the busy seasons working brigades of students and youths of the villages of the Konstantin area are assigned to the DZS. The workers receive a salary of about 15 leva per day, but are paid irregularly.
8. In 1950 and 1951, the farm lost about 30,000,000 leva because of the inexperience of the management. In 1952, Stefan Dechev was dismissed from his post as manager. He was replaced by Veliko Todorov, an agronomist, [redacted] Stoyan Buyukliev, [redacted] was appointed assistant manager. 25X1
9. Several years ago, a TKZS (Trudovo Kooperativno Zemedelsko Stopanstvo; Cooperative Farm) was established in Zlataritsa, Elena Okoliya. Because the TKZS was not operating successfully, its members requested in the autumn of 1952 that it be dissolved. Following the request, Party representatives from Sofia and Elena arrived in Zlataritsa to put pressure on members to remain in the farm. In October 1952, about 100 persons had applied to leave.
10. Each spring, farmers in Bulgaria receive instructions (Poseven Karton; Sowing Schedule) from an area office which tells them what items they should plant, and how many decare should be devoted to the various crops for the year. Later, the Poseven Karton are collected from the farmers, and another order is given telling them how much of each product they must surrender for each decare of land, and the prices they will receive for the products.
11. Violations of the order concerning surrender of products to the government may be punished by imprisonment, and the authorities have enforced the law on farmers who are "nationalists." One method of persecution is to charge the farmer for produce on land which he does not own. [redacted] the following farmers who had been charged in this manner: 25X1
 - a. Sava Tsonev, who was charged with 12 extra decare;
 - b. Ivan Lazarov, who was charged with 17 extra decare;
 - c. Tasko Nachkov, who was charged with 30 extra decare;
 - d. Ivan Petrov Stoychev, who was charged with seven extra decare;
 - e. Davidko Stefanov Trenov, who was charged with 13 extra decare;
 - f. Ivan Ivanov Nikov, who was charged with four extra decare; and
 - g. Yordan Stoykov Buyukliev, who was charged with 22 extra decare.
12. In the spring of 1952, a government commission visited Boykovtsi and stated that the farmers listed above were charged for more decare than they possessed, but the commission was not authorized to release the farmers from their obligation of making the 1952 payments.
13. [redacted] two persons who were charged with less land than they possessed; 25X1
 - a. Dimitur Antonov Stancev, a Party member and godfather of Kosta Savov, the chairman of the "community;" he was charged with 60 decare when he possessed 80 decare; [redacted] Stancev was seen in 1951 carrying home product; 25X1 from the community warehouse which he had "surrendered" as ordered; and
 - b. Desha Yordanova Karasimeonova, the mother-in-law of Kosta Savov, who was charged with 70 decare when she possessed 120 decare.

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